What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for triggering a restraint system,
    an acceleration signal which is characteristic for a
    collision being generated; the acceleration signal
    being on the one hand integrated to form a speed
    signal and on the other hand being used to determine
    a threshold value for the speed signal; the threshold
    value being adapted by a variable (ΔV_{ADD-ON}) which is
    determined from a plurality of characteristics of the
    acceleration signal and/or of the speed signal and/or
    of at least one further sensor signal; and the
    restraint system being triggered as a function of a
    comparison of the speed signal (ΔV_x) with the adapted
    threshold value ($\Delta V_{XTH-ADD}$).

2. The method as recited in Claim 1,
    wherein the plurality of characteristics are
    determined as a function of a hammer blow and/or an
    integration window and/or a signal from an up-front
    sensor and/or as a function of a signal variation
    caused by a deformable barrier and/or by a pattern
    detection.

3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2,
    wherein the plurality of characteristics are combined
    by an adder (8).

4. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 3,
    wherein at least one amplifier (7) is used to assess
    the variable.

5. The method as recited in Claim 4,
    wherein the amplifier (7) is adjusted adaptively.

6. The method as recited in one of the foregoing claims,
    wherein a filter (3) is used for filtering the
    acceleration signal before the threshold value

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calculation (4).

7.   The method as recited in one of the foregoing claims, wherein at least some of the characteristics and/or the at least one sensor signal are logically linked to one another in order to determine the variable $(\Delta V_{ADD\text{-}ON})$.

8.   The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the linking is performed by a matrix.

9.   The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein both dynamic and static characteristics are linked in the matrix.

10.   Use of a control unit in a method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 9.